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BA-811, -----

BA-812, AND -----

BA-813 -----

Davis Flow Factory Sales Building
and Houses
South side Belfast Road near Joyce Lane
Date: ca. 1850

Now an apartment house, the Davis Flow Factory is a two and one-half story house made of stone. Although the building is dated from ca. 1850-1870, the simplicity and functional details suggest a much earlier date. Originally owned and operated by Evan Davis, it is the last standing structure of agricultural industry which flourished in the 19th century.

The two frame two storied houses in Davisville appear to date from ca. 1870-1900.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA-311,812,813

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Davis Plow Factory Sales Building and Houses

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Southside Belfast Road near Joyce Lane

CITY, TOWN

Butler

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

—DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

—STRUCTURE

—SITE

—OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

—PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

—BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

—IN PROCESS

—BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

—UNOCCUPIED

—WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

—YES: RESTRICTED

—YES: UNRESTRICTED

—NO

PRESENT USE

—AGRICULTURE

—COMMERCIAL

—EDUCATIONAL

—ENTERTAINMENT

—GOVERNMENT

—INDUSTRIAL

—MILITARY

—MUSEUM

—PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

—RELIGIOUS

—SCIENTIFIC

—TRANSPORTATION

—OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

William E. Davis

Telephone #: 472-2368

STREET & NUMBER

Belfast Road

CITY, TOWN

Sparks

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21152

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: 1095

Folio #: 541

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The remaining structure of the Davis Plow Factory is a two and one-half storey stone structure closely oriented to the road, its roadside or west facade two full storeys in height, its east facade but one due to the rising grade. Now an apartment house, it functioned as a sales building with a dwelling above in the period of the Plow Factory. It appears to date from ca. 1850-1870, although its traditional, utterly functional detailing suggests a much earlier date.

The first storey of the west or roadside facade is four bays in length, an entrance being in the second bay from the north; the second storey is expressed as three bays, windows being approximately over the masonry between openings below. The east facade is expressed as five bays, entrances being in the northerly bay and in the second bay from the south. In depth, the structure is expressed as two bays, a door being in the first storey near the northwest corner, and in the second near the southeast corner, each sheltered by a small porch. Two dormers are in each roof slope and two six-light sash are in each gable end. Windows are 9/9 in plain, narrow frames. Masonry above windows is supported by stone jack arches.

The gabled roof rises above a traditional wooden cornice which includes an early-19th century bedmoulding. Barge boards are

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
___ PREHISTORIC	___ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___ COMMUNITY PLANNING	___ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___ RELIGION	
___ 1400-1499	___ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___ CONSERVATION	___ LAW	___ SCIENCE	
___ 1500-1599	___ AGRICULTURE	___ ECONOMICS	___ LITERATURE	___ SCULPTURE	
___ 1600-1699	___ ARCHITECTURE	___ EDUCATION	___ MILITARY	___ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
___ 1700-1799	___ ART	___ ENGINEERING	___ MUSIC	___ THEATER	
X 1800-1899	___ COMMERCE	___ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___ PHILOSOPHY	___ TRANSPORTATION	
___ 1900-	___ COMMUNICATIONS	___ INDUSTRY	___ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___ OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		___ INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES	Unknown	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Unknown
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Davis Plow Factory and its supportive buildings occupied a site on the south side of Belfast Road directly opposite the William E. Davis farm. Both were owned and operated by Evan Davis, grandfather of the present owner. Although the actual foundry and manufactory have disappeared, there are vestiges of the former bustling village of Davisville such as the former sales building, now an apartment house, two tenant houses, probably built for workmen's families, and a very old tenant house, once the local school (q.v.).

The 1850 Sidney map of Baltimore County shows the plow factory, as does the 1850 Census of Products of Industry. Besides these, the earliest written reference to the business was an account in the American Farmer of December, 1855, that Evan Davis had won a plowing match with his Woodcock Plow. In addition to plows, Davis manufactured threshers, cultivators, and other agricultural equipment. His ledgers also show iron work done for the local mills.

At Davis' death in 1887, the factory was inherited by his son, Thomas W. Davis, and the farm across the road by another son, Joshua B. Davis. The former carried on the business until about 1895, but then closed it down and scrapped the remaining products of the once-thriving factory.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Sidney, J.C. Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland.
(Baltimore, 1850).

Baltimore County Tax Assessments: 1876, 1896.
(See Continuation Sheet #3)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 11.55 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Catharine F. Black and James T. Wollon, Jr. AIA

ORGANIZATION

For Valleys Historical District Project

DATE

September 1976

STREET & NUMBER

1114 Bellemore Road

TELEPHONE

323-3798

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Davis Plow Factory Sales Building
Valleys Historic District

Continuation Sheet #1

Question #7 Continued

against masonry and there is no rake overhang. A single-flue brick chimney rises flush above the north gable and another rises internally through the ridge at about the northerly third-point.

The interior of this structure has been refinished extensively but simply as an apartment house. Original ledge doors of vertical beaded boards remain in use, and the original random-width floors are exposed in some spaces.

Davisville Houses

Two frame houses, each two storeys in height stand in Davisville, in addition to the Davis Plow Factory Sales Building and the William E. Davis House.

The southerly of the two houses, although close to the road, faces south, not west as it would if it faced the road. It is two bays in length and exterior walls are covered with German siding. The gabled roof rises above a simple wooden cornice with bold eave returns and a single-flue chimney rises from the center of the house. Windows are 6/6 with narrow beaded frames, flanked with louvred blinds. The principal entrance is in the westerly bay of the south front and a hipped-roof porch, one storey in height, extends across the south front.

The interior of this house was not examined. It appears to date from ca. 1870-1900.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

Davis Plow Factory Sales Building
Valleys Historic District

Continuation Sheet #2

Question #7 Continued

The northerly of the two Davisville houses faces west toward the road. It is three bays in length, its principal entrance centered. A two storey shed-roofed wing extends from its south end and a one-storey hipped-roof porch extends across the entire west front, including that front of the south wing. A single-flue chimney rises externally at the south end of the main house. Exterior walls are covered with aluminum siding; otherwise, most exterior details of the two houses are the same.

The interior of this house was not examined; it too appears to date from ca. 1870-1900.

Davis Plow Factory Sales Building
Valleys Historic District

Continuation Sheet #3

Question #9 Continued

McGrain, John W. "Heavy Industry at Davisville". Unpublished manuscript. Copyright, 1975.

Interview with William E. Davis.

Products of Industry Census: 1850, 1860.

WAGNER BOND
SOUTH-WORTH CO. U.S.A.
25% COTTON FIBER

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